

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-3, 13, 15, 17 and 18, leaves claims 4-12, 14, 16 and 19-27 unchanged and adds new claims 28-54.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-54.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants' Japanese Representative Mr. Yukihiro Takemoto wish to thank Examiner Boutah for the courtesy extended during the interview of April 4, 2007. During such interview, an agreement was reached as to the amendments necessary to the claims to further clarify the invention and to overcome the teachings of the references of record. The present Amendment incorporates the amendments agreed to during the interview that "overcome the references" of record and adds new claims which also recite the limitations agreed to during the interview that "overcome the references" of record.

Therefore, based on the agreement reached during the interview, the present claims are now in condition for allowance and early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

As a result of the agreement reached during the interview, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2 and 15-17 as being unpatentable over Applicants' alleged admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Bunch (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0249938); the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 3-12 and 18-27 as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Bunch and further in view of Tingley (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,211); and the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 13 and 14 as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Bunch and further in view of Middleton World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO patent application publication No. 99/13423), have been overcome and as such should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Again, Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants Japanese Representative Mr. Takemoto, wish to thank Examiner Boutah for the courtesy extended during the interview of April 4, 2007. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-54 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-54 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.39905X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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